

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) An air-lock valve comprising:
a housing having an opening configured to be traversed by a flexible band substrate;
and

at least one moveable sealing body cooperating with a sealing surface of the housing for closing the opening during a closing phase of the air-lock valve, with the band substrate being clamped between the at least one movable sealing body and the sealing surface;

wherein the sealing surface surrounds the opening in a frame-like fashion, and the opening is closed vacuum tight by pressing the at least one movable sealing body upon the sealing surface and/or upon the band substrate traversing the opening such that the at least one movable sealing body closes the opening at least through indirect abutting at edges of the sealing surface.

15. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 14, wherein:
the band substrate may be forced through the at least one movable sealing body against a sealing edge of the opening at the sealing surface, such that, in the area of the sealing edge, a tangent of the at least one movable sealing body produces an obtuse angle towards the longitudinal or traversing direction of the band substrate.

16. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 15, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body and the sealing surface each have an arcuate contour and a radius of the sealing surface is larger or equal to the radius of the at least one movable sealing body.
17. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 16, wherein:
the sealing surface and/or the at least one movable sealing body are provided with an elastically flexible surface material.
18. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 16, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body comprises a cylindrical roll.
19. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 15, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body comprises a cylindrical roll.
20. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 15, wherein:
the sealing surface and/or the at least one movable sealing body are provided with an elastically flexible surface material.
21. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 14, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body and the sealing surface each have an arcuate contour and a radius of the sealing surface is larger or equal to the radius of the at least one movable sealing body.
22. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 21, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body comprises a cylindrical roll.

23. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 22, wherein:
the sealing surface and/or the at least one movable sealing body are provided with an
elastically flexible surface material.

24. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 14, wherein:
the sealing surface and/or the at least one movable sealing body are provided with an
elastically flexible surface material.

25. (previously presented) The air-lock valve according to claim 14, wherein:
the sealing surface comprises a planar, flexible material, being tightly connected, with a
wall section in frame-like fashion in an area of a circumferential border of the opening.

26. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 14, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body comprises-is a single cylindrical roll configured to
close the opening.

27. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 14, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body is rotably mounted.

28. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 14, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body is moved between an inactive and a closed
position by a separate power drive.

29. (previously presented) The air-lock valve according to claim 28, wherein:
the separate power drive is provided at or inside the housing.

30. (currently amended) The air-lock valve according to claim 14, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body is firmly tightened against the sealing surface
with a predetermined bearing load by an accumulator.

31. (currently amended) A processing plant for traversing band-like substrates comprising:
at least one evacuable processing chamber;
at least another chamber associated with the at least one evacuable processing chamber
for unrolling or winding up the band substrate;
the chambers are interconnected through an opening through which the band substrate
is guided; and
at least one air-lock valve provided at the opening;
the at least one air-lock valve comprising:
a housing having the opening; and
at least one moveable sealing body cooperating with a sealing surface of the housing for
closing the opening vacuum tight during a closing phase of the air-lock valve, with the band
substrate being clamped between the at least one movable sealing body and the sealing surface;
wherein the sealing surface surrounds the opening in a frame-like fashion, and the
opening is closed by pressing the at least one movable sealing body upon the sealing surface
and/or upon the band substrate traversing the opening such that the at least one movable
sealing body closes the opening at least through indirect abutting at edges of the sealing
surface.

32. (currently amended) The processing plant according to claim 31, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body of at least one air-lock valve and the sealing
surface are turned towards the additionalat least another chamber to be occasionally ventilated.

33. (currently amended) The processing plant according to claim 31, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body comprises a cylindrical roll.

34. (new) The air-lock valve according to claim 31, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body is moved between an inactive and a closed position by a separate power drive.
35. (new) The air-lock valve according to claim 31, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body is firmly tightened against the sealing surface with a predetermined bearing load by an accumulator.
36. (new) The air-lock valve according to claim 31, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body is a single cylindrical roll configured to close the opening.
37. (new) The air-lock valve according to claim 14, wherein:
the sealing surface surrounding the opening is arcuate and the body is a cylindrical roll configured to engage the arcuate sealing surface.
38. (new) The processing plant according to claim 31, wherein:
the sealing surface surrounding the opening is arcuate and the body is a cylindrical roll configured to engage the arcuate sealing surface.
39. (new) The air-lock valve according to claim 14, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body closes the opening by abutting the sealing surface to wholly overlap the opening.
40. (new) The processing plant according to claim 31, wherein:
the at least one movable sealing body closes the opening by abutting the sealing surface to wholly overlap the opening.

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Appln. No. : 10/574,867
Page : 7

41. (new) The air-lock valve according to claim 28, wherein:

the at least one movable sealing body is spaced from the sealing surface and configured to be spaced from the flexible substrate when in the inactive position.

42. (new) The air-lock valve according to claim 34, wherein:

the at least one movable sealing body is spaced from the sealing surface and configured to be spaced from the flexible substrate when in the inactive position.